

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/770,501

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER K. PETERSON

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI, KENKICHI

Art Unit

2622

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 24 April 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application   |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>24 April 2008</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/11/2008</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                    | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                              |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.  |

/Ngoc-Yen T. Vu/  
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The Amendment After Non-Final Rejection filed on April 4, 2008 has been received and made of record. Examiner notes that the Applicant has cancelled claims 3 - 17. Claim 2 is now cancelled and added to claim 1 per Examiner's amendment. Claim 1 is pending in this application.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 2/11/2008 was filed after the mailing date of the amendment on 2/5/2008. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with D. Richard Anderson on April 24, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 1.** (Currently amended) A signal processing method comprising:

an overwriting step of overwriting a LUT written into a table storage area with another LUT, in accordance with a content of each of a plurality of processes executed to a first signal or a second signal; and

a synthesizing step of performing a process corresponding to a content of the another LUT for the first signal or the second signal each time the LUT in the table storage area is overwritten and synthesizing the processed first signal and the second processed signal, wherein the synthesizing step comprises:

a step of writing a first LUT for gray-scale correction of the first signal into the table storage area;

a step of performing gray-scale correction on the first signal by using the first LUT for gray-scale correction written into the table storage area;

a step of overwriting the table storage area where the first LUT for gray-scale correction is overwritten with a second LUT for gray-scale correction of the second signal;

a step of performing gray-scale correction on the second signal by using the second LUT for gray-scale correction written into the table storage area;

a step of overwriting the table storage area where the second LUT for gray-scale correction is overwritten with a weighting LUT for signal synthesis; and

a step of synthesizing the first signal and the second signal by using the weighting LUT for signal synthesis written into the table storage area.

**Claim 2** – Canceled

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a signal processing method comprising: an overwriting step of overwriting a LUT written into a table storage area with another LUT, in accordance with a content of each of a plurality of processes executed to a first signal or a second signal; and a synthesizing step of performing a process corresponding to a content of the another LUT for the first signal or the second signal each time the LUT in the table storage area is overwritten and synthesizing the processed first signal and the second processed signal, wherein the synthesizing step comprises: a step of writing a first LUT for gray-scale correction of the first signal into the table storage area; a step of performing gray-scale correction on the first signal by using the first LUT for gray-scale correction written into the table storage area; a step of overwriting the table storage area where the first LUT for gray-scale correction is overwritten with a second LUT for gray-scale correction of the second signal; a step of performing gray-scale correction on the second signal by using the second LUT for gray-scale correction written into the table storage area; a step of overwriting the table storage area where the second LUT for gray-scale correction is overwritten with a weighting LUT for signal synthesis; and a step of synthesizing the first signal and the

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second signal by using the weighting LUT for signal synthesis written into the table storage area.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER K. PETERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1704. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:30 - 4:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CKP  
25 April 2008

***/Ngoc-Yen T. VU/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622***